

course, the lumber industry is a major one throughout the state to this day.

Unlike other pine-filled states, however, during colonial days, those pine trees were generally not exploited fully for the pine gum. That resinous substance was then very necessary for such things as ship-caulking. But ship-building had never been much pursued in colonial Louisiana, and the extensive pine forests were many miles from New Orleans, so pine-pitch as an export would not have been so attractive. Too, until about the middle of the 18th century, central Louisiana was still more a wilderness than anything else. It was a virgin land.

In the winter of 1766, however, one man did recognize that profits were to be made from pine trees without chopping them down. The man was Etienne Maraffret Layssard, he who was to be named the first commandant of Rapides Post four years later, in 1770. To explore possibilities, in December of 1766, Layssard made the long river journey from New Orleans to the Rapids and by March of 1767, he was back in New Orleans, seeking the (by then Spanish) governor's permission to undertake the business of, as he wrote it, "Goldronnorie" — a misspelled French word meaning "tar works." There is little doubt that the governor would have denied permission, but Layssard poured out to him a real sob-story anyway: he had apparently been kicked by a horse and that had left him crippled for life, and he had eight children to rear. (In another letter, he says he had nine; the 1773 census accounts for seven.)

No very large "tar works" came of Layssard's industry, but it did serve as a vanguard for the future, and his activity in central Louisiana would attract many new settlers to the pine hills and the fertile soil of the Red River.

## A Louisiana Guide

During the past 20 years, our state's numerous genealogical societies have produced an astounding amount of reference material based on early documentary sources. Until now, the problem was to learn what had been published and where it had been published. At last, Yvette Guillot Boling has helped to solve the problem with her recently published "Guide to Printed Sources for Genealogical Research in the Louisiana Parishes," over 100 pages amounting to a heavily-annotated "table of contents" to 14 of the state's genealogical periodicals. In addition to the state society's journal, the New Orleans Genesis is included, as well as The Genie (Ark-La-Tex), The Natchitoches Genealogist, and Louisiana History. In Winn Parish, for one good example, we learn that published materials include cemetery inscriptions for Union Springs, membership lists for St. Maurice Methodist Church (1888-1896) and a marriage index from 1885-1900.

A special section relating to Louisiana includes a survey of published census returns in 1699, the colony was particularly interested in the 1840 Revolution.

ers in Louisiana and Mississippi. Order this indispensable paperback from the author, 4724 Asbury Dr., Jefferson, La. 70212. \$11, including postage and handling. Mrs. Boling is a Certified Genealogist and is editor of the Louisiana Genealogical Register, so she knows her business.

## Query

Dr. B.B. Ridge, 1335 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94109, Seeks date of arrival from Sweden of Josephine Hulda Johnson, and port of arrival. Her husband was Justus Monroe Bateman of Louisiana and both died in Texas in 1933. Ridge reports that he's done his census home-work, but to no avail. Mrs. Bateman's death certificate does not reveal her parents, as it should — the only thing known is that she was born in Sweden and that her brother's name was John Johnson. We suggest checking this brother's death certificate, hoping it will give the names of their

The old story about having to know the name of the ship on which an ancestor arrived in order to locate that ancestor on a ship list is not altogether true, but it is helpful. It has always seemed likely to us that if anyone knew the name of the ship, they'd already know the other details as well.

In a future column, we'll delve into such things as naturalization papers and other matters relating to newly-arrived Europeans in America.

Two weeks ago, a sentence in this column said that researchers should take care in checking "my indices." That should have read "any indices," including this writer's.

Queries and books for review are welcomed. Address: "Titles and Tales," The Town Talk, P.O. Box 7558, Alexandria 71306. Your queries will be published, with your address, as space becomes available.